Activities of the Doctoral Program Committee:

1. Review of Annual Progress Reports

All students registered in the i-School PhD program are required to submit an annual progress review (APR) which, along with a current CV, updates academic and intellectual progress through the doctoral program, community participation, and goals and plans for the next 12 months. The advisor/supervisor adds comments to those of the student, and the APR is then made available online for review by all members of regular faculty, and to those attending a meeting of the Doctoral Program Committee (DPC). Each APR is discussed, and feedback provided, in writing, to the doctoral student and his/her advisor/supervisor.

The DPC met May 31, and June 2, 2011, to review and comment on APRs from a total of 39 doctoral students at various stages of their programs. The process will be completed with the return of the annotated APR before the end of June. The Committee thanks Laura Jantek and Areti Vourinaris for their hours of support in moving this annual process along.

2. New Doctoral Program Requirements

DPC members, Professors Cantwell Smith, Howarth, and Phillips, and PhD student representative, Steven Chuang, have been meeting to develop or revise policies, as required, for the new doctoral curriculum, approved October, 2010, by the SGS Graduate Education Council. As documentation is drafted, it will be discussed at faculty meetings, and subsequently brought forward to the Programs Committee, and to Faculty Council. Particular thanks to Professor Phillips for providing rich “corporate memory” along with key documentation from across the life course of the new PhD curriculum development.

Related Activities:

1. PhD Research Days

On April 11 and 12, 2011, the i-School held the third of its now annual PhD Research Days. Guest respondent, Professor John Budd (University of Missouri), was joined in each of four sessions across the two days by i-School faculty panelists. A total of 22 doctoral students, from all stages of the program, both full- and flex-time, presented on a range of research topics from settlement issues, to writers’ archives, to geotargetted information, to the social civic web, to name only a handful. Presentations generated challenging questions, thoughtful insights, and lively debate. In all, considerable feedback for doctoral researchers. Thanks to the doctoral student participants, and twelve faculty respondents for their engagement, and to Areti Vourinaris for organizing and coordinating two stimulating days.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Howarth
Professor and Chair of DPC